Ministry of Agriculture

Farm & Food Report

Communications Branch, Walter Scott Building
3085 Albert Street, Regina, Canada, S4S 0B1

Saskatchewan

Log Number: 08-17-75
Week of April 21, 2008

STOCK PERSON'S SCHOOL DRAWS FROM ACROSS THE PRAIRIES

Stock Person's School opens its doors May 1, as participants from across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba come to improve their knowledge of animal care.

The Canadian Agriculture Skills Service (CASS)-approved event attracts 125 livestock producers on an annual basis.

Stock Person's School is an event born from a partnership between the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan (FACS) and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) at the University of Saskatchewan. The event also receives support from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

The organizations have offered a one-day conference each spring, since 2000, that draws from across the Prairies. Initially, the Stock Person's School was targeted for Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and pasture riders, according to FACS Executive Director Adele Buettner. The focus has since expanded to attract other cattle and dairy producers, 4-H clubs and horse owners.

The topics covered range from nutrition, including feed and grazing, to reproduction and disease management. A key to the success of Stock Person's School is its responsiveness to the informational needs of its audience.

"Our topics are really timely," Buettner said. "When we put our agenda together, we form a draft and circulate it among past participants and some managers in the pasture riders' program. We get really good feedback."

The presenters represent veterinary medicine colleges, the Western Beef Development Centre and an expert private producer specializing in rotational grazing. "We have experts on the agenda – credible, reputable people. They are there to share knowledge based on fact and the most recent research," Buettner said.

"What the participants are going to take away is information that will help make them better at their jobs, as herds people, as cattlemen, as ranchers. They will have a better understanding of feed, a better understanding of herd health and general animal care issues."

The session runs from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on May 1. The cost to attend is $136.50 per person.

(more)

More information on the program and registration for the 2008 edition of Stock Person's School can be found on the FACS website at http://www.facs.sk.ca/ or by calling (306) 249-3227.

Buettner recommends that participants register early, as the event is usually a popular draw.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

Adele Buettner, Executive Director
Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.
Phone: (306) 249-3227
E-mail: facs@sasktel.net
Website: http://www.facs.sk.ca/